

10/019058

Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 DEC 2001

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kiyotaka YASUDA et al.

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

HYDROGEN STORAGE MATERIAL AND
PROCESS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As a result of extensive studies, the present inventors have found that the above object is accomplished by a hydrogen storage material of AB_2 structure having a specific nonstoichiometric composition (B site rich), particularly a composition having $4.1 < Ni \leq 4.3$ and $0.4 < Mn \leq 0.6$, and the c-axis of which is in a given range. They have also found that such a hydrogen storage material is obtainable with the above-described specific composition when a casting temperature and heat treating conditions satisfy a given relationship.